

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 /164 W
-----014298 091630Z /45

R 091537Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON CD AND BELGIAN CANDIDACY

REF: STATE 191929 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: DURING EMBASSY COURTESY CALL ON
FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT CHIEF,
LATTER RAISED SUBJECT OF CD MEMBERSHIP. HE RE-
EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE BELGIUM ATTACHES TO AN EXPANDED
MEMBERSHIP OF EIGHT, TO ADEQUATE NATO REPRESENTATION
ON NEW COMMITTEE. TO THOROUGH NATO CONSULTATIONS ON
THE ISSUE -- AND TO BELGIUM'S OWN CANDIDACY. THE
BELGIAN ROTATION PROPOSAL WAS EXPLAINED AS ENVISIONING
AN INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT AMONG WESTERN NATIONS,
RATHER THAN A CD-WIDE RULE. THE QUESTION OF GENEVA
AS A CONSULTATION SITE WAS NOT MENTIONED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF AUGUST 8 COURTESY CALL TO INTRODUCE
NEW EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER, BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
CHIEF OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, PIERRE CHAMPENOIS,
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(WHO WILL BECOME POLITICAL COUNSELLOR IN WASHINGTON
THIS FALL) CITED CONTINUING BELGIAN CONCERN OVER
ADEQUATE WESTERN REPRESENTATION ON THE CD. AFTER
PROVIDING HIS OWN ENCAPSULATED VERSION OF CD HISTORY,
CHAMPENOIS SAID HE GATHERED FROM BELGIAN APPROACHES
IN WASHINGTON THAT DEPARTMENT, WHILE STILL IN PROCESS
OF FORMULATING FIRM POSITION, 1) TENDED TOWARD

THE USSR-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPANSION OF CD MEMBERSHIP BY FIVE; 2) WAS HESITANT TO TAKE POSITION ON SPECIFICS OF MEMBERSHIP "REVIEW" WHICH COULD UPSET DELIBERATE VAGUENESS OF LANGUAGE ARRIVED AT WITH SOME DIFFICULTY; AND 3) WAS UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO PICK A FAVORITE AMONG NATO CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP.

3. NONETHELESS, SAID CHAMPENOIS, BELGIUM CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXPAND COMMITTEE ROLLS BY EIGHT NEW MEMBERS AS THE ONLY MEANS TO ASSURE BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. HE SAID MOST OTHER WEST EUROPEAN AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS ALSO FAVOR EIGHT AND THAT THE USSR, IN PUSHING THE FIVE FIGURE, HAS IN MIND FINLAND AND AUSTRALIA AS REPRESENTING THE WEST, WITH CUBA, SRI LANKA AND ALGERIA AS NON-ALIGNED. THIS, SAID CHAMPENOIS, WOULD ONLY WORSEN THE ALREADY EXISTING IMBALANCE IN COMMITTEE COMPOSITION. HE REITERATED THAT EIGHT SLOTS ARE NEEDED TO PERMIT ADEQUATE NATO REPRESENTATION AND SAID THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN NATO PRIOR TO DISCUSSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUES IN ANY OTHER GROUP.

4. ACCORDING TO CHAMPENOIS, BELGIUM SEES THE PERIODIC MEMBERSHIP "REVIEW" QUESTION AND THE BELGIAN ROTATION PROPOSAL AS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO DECISIONS ON EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP. WITHOUT SOME PROVISION FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ROTATION, HE ARGUED, COUNTRIES PASSED OVER IN THE INITIAL EXPANSION PROCESS WOULD SEE NON-SELECTION AS TANTAMOUNT TO ETERNAL EXCLUSION FROM A BODY IN WHICH THEY HAD GREAT INTEREST. (APART FROM THE QUESTION OF PRESSURES FOR FURTHER COMMITTEE EXPANSION, HE SEEMED TO IMPLY THIS WOULD EMBITTER THE INITIAL SELECTION PROCESS.) THE GOB WAS NOT PROPOSING ROTATION ON A CD-WIDE BASIS, BUT WAS THINKING INSTEAD OF AN INFORMAL "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" AMONG THE WEST GROUP, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN WESTERN REPRESENTATION EVERY FIVE YEARS OR SO.

5. PERHAPS REFLECTING DISCOURAGING USG RESPONSES IN WASHINGTON AND GENEVA, CHAMPENOIS DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF GENEVA AS A CONSULTATION SITE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO BELGIAN QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP VS. OTHER NATO CONTENDERS, CHAMPENOIS EXPRESSED DOUBTS AGAIN OVER POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN TENDENCIES TO REFLECT SWEDISH DISARMAMENT VIEWS, GLOSSED OVER DENMARK AND IMPLIED THAT PRESENT GREEK-TURKISH DIFFICULTIES WOULD MAKE TURKISH PARTICI-

PATION LESS EFFECTIVE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BELGIUM IS THE ONLY DIRECT PARTICIPANT IN THE MBFR WHICH IS NOT ALSO REPRESENTED IN THE CCD. HE CLAIMED BELGIAN CANDIDACY HAD SUPPORT OF FRANCE AND FRG AND SAID HE BELIEVED IT HAD SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF UK, ALTHOUGH LATTER, LIKE U.S. DID NOT RELISH PICKING FAVORITES AMONG NATO ALLIES.

7. EMBOFFS ASSURED CHAMPENOIS THAT THEY WOULD REPORT

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8285
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15417

TO WASHINGTON THESE RENEWED (AND APPARENTLY SLIGHTLY REFOCUSSED) EXPRESSIONS OF BELGIAN CONCERN OVER THE CD MEMBERSHIP ISSUE. CHAMBERS

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